

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Title as follows.

-- ANNULUS FIBROSIS AUGMENTATION METHODS AND APPARATUS --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

-- To restore disc height resulting, for example, from degenerative disease, prosthetic discs are used to replace only the nucleus pulposus. Reference is made to my U.S. Patent No. 6,419,704, which discusses spinal anatomy, spinal physiology, disc degeneration, surgical and non-surgical treatments of disc disease, and the advantages of prosthetic disc replacement. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

-- At times the rotational, translational, and axial compression forces exceed the strength of the annular fibers. The excessive forces tear the annular fibers. A single event can tear one band to all the bands. Subsequent tears can connect to previous tears of a few bands resulting in a hole through the entire annulus fibrosis. Holes through the entire annulus fibrosis can result in extrusion of the nucleus pulposus. Extrusion of the nucleus pulposus is referred to as a "herniated disc." Disc herniation can result in back [[pan]] pain, neck pain, arm pain, leg pain, nerve or spinal cord injury, or a combination of the above. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Prosthetic replacement of the nucleus pulposus alone risks future problems arising from annular tears. Patients may continue to complain of pain from the stresses placed onto the weakened annulus. Secondly, tears of the annulus could result in extrusion of the prosthetic nucleus. In addition, remaining nucleus pulposus could herniate through annular tears. --